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PRAVDA REVIEW ON SALT, MIDDLE EAST, IRAN, U.S.-PRC TIES

LD281339Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Dec 78 P 4 LD

[Vladimir Bolshakov international review: "The International Week"]

[Text] The dollar's fall in currency markets. The growth of unemployment. Inflation. A further slump in production. No improvement in 1979. It is with these melancholy results and forecasts that the capitalist world comes to the end of the present year. Capitalism's inability to cope with the comprehensive crisis which it is experiencing is confirmed over and over again. The successes of the socialist community which has become for mankind the personification of peace, genuine democracy and social progress are a particularly vivid contrast against this background.

For Bread and Peace

The entire world press has covered the remarks of L. I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, in his speech in the Kremlin where he was presented with our motherland's highest award. "There are two things which have always been and will always be close to his heart and which have always been and will always be the object of his main concerns," Finland's HELSINGIN SANOMAT wrote of this speech, "bread for the people and the country's security."

These words symbolize the Leninist domestic and foreign policy of the CPSU and the Soviet Government which recently once again received broad international support. In approving a number of Soviet initiatives the 33d UN General Assembly session which has just ended in New York rated highly the USSR's contribution to the struggle for peace and disarmament and its proposals aimed at eliminating the threat of new wars and consolidating international security. "The Soviet Union," UN Secretary General K. Waldheim noted, "has played the most active role in this sphere and has put forward a number of new proposals, including a proposal for strengthening security guarantees for nonnuclear states."

The Warsaw Pact states' declaration outlining paths toward disarmament and the permanent exclusion of war from mankind's life--paths elaborated jointly by the fraternal socialist countries--is encountering increasing support in the world.

The second-stage agreement on the limitation of strategic offensive armaments (SALT-II) between the USSR and the United States would be an important barrier to the arms race. At the meeting in Geneva between A. A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, and U. S. Secretary of State C. Vance the intention was expressed of completing the elaboration of this agreement in the near future.

In the opinion of U. S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, "provided there are no last-minute hitches, the Soviet-American SALT treaty which has been under elaboration for 6 years will be signed in the new year." Many American commentators agree with this assessment, pointing out both sides' serious interest in concluding such an agreement.

The majority of the U. S. population--75 percent plus, according to the latest polls--advocates this. But it is no secret that the U. S. military-industrial complex is mobilizing every effort to prevent Senate ratification of the future treaty. [paragraph continues]

Unfortunately, even among the specialists whose services the United States has enlisted in the elaboration of this agreement there are people who have stated with incomprehensible irresponsibility that it "will not stop the arms race but merely intensify it." This obviously smacks of the recommendations of the notorious "Committee on the Present Danger" which has gathered together the fiercest champions of cold war and the arms race.

Many politicians in the United States such as Senator E. Muskie realize that "rejection of the SALT-II treaty will be the signal to intensify the arms race and will necessitate expenditure of billions in view of the need to earmark additional funds for the creation of armaments." Mankind, including the U. S. people, is now demanding that a new spiral of the arms race be prevented.

Near East

Until midnight on 17 December the teletype machines were still tapping out the word "possibly" in commenting on the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty--Camp David set last Sunday as the deadline for its signing.

However, As-Sadat and Begin did not meet, as planned, on Mount Sinai or sign the document advertised in advance as "establishing peace in the Near East."

Reports have appeared that As-Sadat has asked King Khalid of Saudi Arabia to help him to normalize relations with the Arab world and, as Kuwait's AL-WATAN wrote, even to "return to the ranks of the Arab countries."

Israel immediately attacked the United States and Secretary of State Vance personally for their "pro-Egyptian position." For its part the United States threatened to abandon its mediation altogether.

However, this entire political storm in a teacup was necessary merely in order to justify the position of Israel which, according to MA'ARIV, is threatening to "revise the entire treaty elaborated in Washington." The ground for this was Egypt's demand that the exchange of ambassadors between Cairo and Tel Aviv be timed to the date of the proclamation of "self-government" for the West Bank, and the attempt to tone down Article 6 of the treaty which practically annuls all the treaties previously concluded by Egypt with the Arab countries, transforming Egypt into a virtual ally of Israel. Tel Aviv viewed this attempt by Cairo to "save face" in the Arab world as outrageous.

Does all this mean that the idea of concluding a separate treaty between Egypt and Israel has been abandoned? No. The thoughts and deeds of Washington, Tel Aviv and Cairo are still directed toward this. The "storm" quickly passed over.

Begin, pulling levers of influence on the White House, announced that more talks will be held between Egyptian Prime Minister Khalil and Israeli Foreign Minister Dayan in Brussels at the end of the week. According to him they "concern not the substance (of the treaty--V.B.) but procedural questions." Cyrus Vance is also coming to Brussels. This new tripartite meeting is being evaluated by the U. S. press as evidence that Tel Aviv's positions are as always "meeting with understanding" on the part of the U. S. President. Cairo is being pushed to make more concessions or, more precisely, to accept an Israeli ultimatum. Taking advantage of such connivance, Tel Aviv has embarked on a new escalation of armed provocations against Lebanon by bombing Palestinian camps and by direct incursion onto that country's territory. Such marauding evidently falls completely within the "framework" of the Near East peace settlement elaborated at Camp David.

It is impossible to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Near East by making separate deals with the aggressor. During the week King Husayn of Jordan and other Arab world figures again called for the resumption of the Geneva conference--the recognized international forum for a Near East settlement. This settlement could only be achieved on condition that all Arab territories occupied by Israel are freed and that the legitimate and inalienable national rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including their rights to self-determination and the creation of their own independent state, are satisfied in full.

Iran

In Iran 18 December was a day of mourning for the victims of mass shootings on peaceful demonstrations. Hundreds of thousands of Iranians participated in strikes, meetings and antigovernment demonstrations. The authorities again responded to these actions with terror, shootings and arrests.

In commenting on the tumultuous events in that country the Western press is attempting to present them merely as the dissatisfaction of Shi'ite Moslem clergy (which enjoys a definite popularity among the people) at the regime's intentions to convert the country to Western ways to the detriment of other religious traditions. Some observers are contriving to interpret the causes of the events as settlement of the personal scores of Ayatollah Khomeyni, a leader of the Moslem opposition, against the ruling dynasty. If matters amounted only to that the events would hardly have caused such a commotion in Western capitals, primarily Washington. Whole battalions of CIA agents in the guise of "diplomatic officials" and arms consignments for "suppressing the disturbances" would not have been sent there.

In fact Iran's religious leaders themselves give a somewhat more profound assessment of the causes of the crisis than the Western press. One of them, (A.Kh. Banisadr) writes in the New York TIMES: "A healthy economy, social security and the country's cultural integrity have been sacrificed so that the shah could rule Iran from U.S. strategic objectives. From our viewpoint, these objectives are as follows: The exploitation of Iran's natural resources, primarily oil, at a rate benefiting the U.S. monopoly interests; sewing up the Iranian domestic market for itself; control over Iran and its military installations, these being among the most important links in a strategic chain forged to keep the entire gulf region in a state of exploitation by the West. The disastrous social and economic consequences of the shah's subservience to these objectives are the real cause of the crisis."

It is astonishing that after the publication of such an article the New York TIMES and other U.S. press organs are not embarrassed to publish features on "interference by communists" and "Soviet agents" in Iran's affairs! To subscribe to the Western press' favorite terminology, the "hand of Washington" which is opposing the Iranian people to the accompaniment of vows of loyalty to the cause of "defending human rights" is increasingly clearly evident in that country.

However, times have changed. The whole world is now demanding that the United States not interfere in Iran's affairs. The Soviet Union has warned the imperialist states about this with the utmost determination. Let Iran's people themselves handle their internal affairs. Without any external interference.

United States-China

Foreign journalists have called the decision of the American administration and the Peking leadership to establish diplomatic relations between the United States and the PRC from 1 January next year the "No 1 sensation." Even before a PRC Embassy has appeared in Washington, the second man in the Peking hierarchy after Hua Kuo-feng--Teng Hsiao-ping--will visit the United States at the end of January. Prominent representatives of the Carter administration will soon visit Peking.

The establishment of normal relations between two sovereign states is a natural thing, L.I. Brezhnev noted in his reply to President Carter's communication on this decision. The Soviet Union has always advocated such relations between countries. The basis on which normalization takes place and the goals set by the sides are another question. This question is also natural, particularly in view of the quite definite orientation of China's present course.

What guided the sides in deciding to establish diplomatic relations? Why was U.S. recognition of the PRC, postponed for nearly 30 years under various, mainly anticommunist pretexts, adopted in such haste and under such secrecy? Where does this development lead?--That is the general range of questions being discussed by the world press.

The New York TIMES, explains the reasons for the haste by the fact that a new deadlock has emerged "at the Near East talks which Carter has watched over for so long," and by the "political disorders in Iran." In these conditions, in the newspaper's opinion, "there could not be a more favorable moment for achieving such decisive progress in relations with China." It is possible that the new diplomatic step was used as a prop for the administration's popularity. However, that is not the explanation. Deeper reasons can be traced in the American-Chinese communique on establishment of diplomatic relations itself. As the American journalist Shipler writes, it "uses Chinese terminology with a strong anti-Soviet coloring." Many observers write in this connection that in establishing relations with the PRC some people in Washington were counting on gaining "new levers of pressure on the Soviet Union." Despite the assertion in both Peking and Washington that normalization is not directed against third countries, newspapers of the most diverse and even opposite orientations write of plans being entertained for creating a Washington-Peking-Tokyo anti-Soviet alliance. The world press reaction is understandable, particularly considering the circumstances which gave rise to the Washington-Peking "sensation." It is no accident that the Washington POST directs attention to the fact that "the stage of intensive mutual flirtation between the United States and China under the present administration began with the trip to Peking last May by Zbigniew Brzezinski, the President's national security adviser, whose anti-Soviet position and whose eloquence enraptured the Chinese leaders." The U.S. press reports that Brzezinski has "assumed the role of chief official on Chinese affairs," calling for a policy of playing the "Chinese card." This policy, as the American press admits, is a "continuation of the diplomacy of the Washington-Moscow-Peking 'triangle' which was begun 7 years ago by Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger." But whereas formerly the United States regarded this "triangle" as a way of using the serious differences between the USSR and the PRC for its own purposes, now certain White House advisers, in one congressman's words, "are trying to involve the United States in the Soviet-Chinese quarrel on the Chinese side."

This is the Maoists' ancient dream. And when the well-known extremist journalists Evans and Novak, one of whom was recently received by Teng Hsiao-ping in Peking, write of the PRC vice premier's sincere desire to pool efforts with the Americans against the northern neighbor, then it is clear that they were led by the hand by their masters--the bosses of the U.S. military-industrial complex. [paragraph continues]

They saw in an alliance with Peking a new opportunity for accelerating the arms race and returning the world to the times of confrontation.

Of course, it is a long way from these gentlemen's desire to reality. But vigilance is necessary.

On its part, the Soviet Union, as L.I. Brezhnev's reply to the U.S. President indicates, will closely observe what happens in practice in the development of American-Chinese relations, and the appropriate conclusions for Soviet policy will be drawn from this.

This week's events reflect the complex political processes of today. Imperialism is seeking refined means in the struggle against the socialist world, against the working class and the national liberation movement, in its attempt to split the anti-imperialist front. These intrigues are resolutely opposed by mankind's healthy forces, the forces of peace and socialism, to which the future belongs.

COMMENTATOR PREDICTS WORSENING OF WEST'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

LD281942Y Moscow TASS in English 1910 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

["The Same as a Year Ago"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, December 28, TASS--Sergey Stoklitskiy, a TASS commentator, writes:

Exactly a year ago on the last days of December, summing up the mirthless results of 1977, many in industrially developed capitalist countries with a secret hope looked forward to the year 1978, believing that the incoming year would finally finish with the upheavals connected with the devastating crisis of the world capitalist economy of 1974-1975.

Nothing of the kind occurred. The "stabilization" plans thouroughly worked out at national level of the state-monopoly regulation and coordinated at the economic summit conference of the leading "seven" of the West in Bonn in the middle of this year were never destined to come true. None of the summits of the hapless "depression-inflation-unemployment" triangle was conquered.

Moreover, on the strength of the current development trends, authoritative experts from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), of which twenty four leading states of the capitalist world are members, are inclined to believe that the economy of the West will not get free from the grip of unresolved problems next year either. According to their forecasts, an average increment in gross national product in those countries will decline by half a per cent and will be only three per cent, with not more than two per cent in the USA, the leader of the capitalist world. The curve of prices will go up by another seven per cent while the situation on the labour market will not change substantially. By the middle of next year eighteen million people will be haunting labour exchanges in quest of a job. In a word, no changes for the better are being expected.

The bourgeois press in general is ready to look for the causes of the deadlock situation in anything--in an irresponsible policy of trade unions, in schemings of the developing countries-oil exporters--but the state-monopoly structure of the contemporary capitalist economy.

Meanwhile the accelerated concentration and internationalization of capital are leading to the growth of the might of transnational corporation which are today in control of about a third of the output of gross national product of the capitalist world and over a half of its international trade. It is exactly transnational corporation that directly or indirectly determine the key elements of economic strategy in the West.

Hence the legalisation of the practice of monopoly price formation, the main cause of the continual price rise, and the capitalist "rationalization" of production, leading to the growth of unemployment. Hence the arms race with its hard consequences, the tone of which is being set by military-industrial business.

Hence is also the real alternative for which the broadest sections of the toiling masses in the West struggle. The struggle against the dominance of the big capital, for peace and democracy inspires real and not illusory hopes for a better future.

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BLAME EEC FOR LACK OF PROGRESS AT TALKS

LD222257Y Moscow TASS in English 1630 GMT 22 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Brussels, December 22, TASS--The countries of the European Economic Community came under sharp criticism during talks here between the EEC and the Organization of 54 African Caribbean and Pacific Countries (ACP). Representatives of the developing countries blamed the Common Market for the absence of progress at these talks on disputable questions connected with a renewal of the Lome Convention on Economic, Commercial and Financial Relations which expires in 1980.

The finance minister of the Kingdom of Tonga, Sione Tapa, said that all proposals of the developing countries for a revision of a number of provisions of the Lome Convention met with no response from the EEC. At this round of talks which have been going on for several months and which are to be completed by December 31 this year, the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries tried vainly again to get the EEC to agree to a revision of the Stabex (export earnings stabilisation) scheme for the ACP countries.

They pointed out that this system, established under the Lome Convention of 1975 to offset the losses suffered by the developing countries for many reasons in their trade with the EEC, did not do any good to them. They demanded that apart from 18 items--chiefly agricultural products and iron ore--now covered by the Stabex scheme it should also include other export items of the developing countries. The ACP member-states stressed that as a result of the rapid growth of inflation in Western Europe they suffer enormous losses in exporting their goods to the EEC markets and demanded that in the new agreement the Stabex scheme should be revised with due account taken of increased inflation rates. ACP representatives urged the Common Market to allow duty-free export of all their agricultural products to the EEC and made a number of other demands stemming from the needs of their economies. None of the proposals made by the developing countries was accepted and the talks, as Sione Tapa stressed, came to nothing through the fault of the EEC.

OPEC OIL PRICE RISE INSUFFICIENT TO COVER LOSSES

LD201104Y Moscow TASS in English 0903 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 20, TASS--The newspaper SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA writes today of the results of the Abu Dhabi OPEC conference which decided to raise oil prices by 14.5 per cent in the course of 1979.

But the situation which has arisen in OPEC over the last two years called for a much greater increase in oil prices, the article says. In the period after the OPEC conference in Doha when oil prices were raised for the last time, the incomes of the OPEC member-countries have dropped sharply because of the ever growing prices of goods imported from capitalist states and the runaway inflation in the West.

Another factor forcing down real profits from oil exports is a slump of the dollar rate in the exchange markets in the West. This alone caused the oil-producing states to lose a total of about 17 billion dollars in 1977.

But despite the fact that the oil-producing states annually lose millions of dollars they failed at Abu Dhabi to take effective measures safeguarding them against such losses.

The price rise decided upon at Abu Dhabi will be, to a considerable extent, reduced to naught because of the continuous inflation in the capitalist countries and the OPEC member-nations will continue to lose many millions of dollars.

The decisions of the OPEC conference were bitterly resented in the principal capitalist countries. Political leaders and the Western mass media attacked the OPEC countries, saying that the new oil prices will further aggravate inflation. This is nothing more than an attempt to lay the blame at somebody else's door. It is the failure of the industrialised Western countries to curb inflation and to deal effectively with the situation in the exchange markets that has adversely affected the oil-producing countries, the article says. Their decision, though a limited one, has the character of a protective measure.

ISSUES AT VANCOUVER SOCIAL DEMOCRAT CONGRESS DISCUSSED

LD210724Y Moscow TASS in English 0710 GMT 21 Dec 78 LD

[Quote marks as received]

[Text] Moscow, December 21, TASS--"The socialist and social democratic parties having a considerable political weight in the capitalist world, made a certain contribution to the process of detente in the first half of the seventies," A. Weber and I. Sokolov write in PRAVDA.

A conspicuous event was the special conference of the Socialist International on questions of disarmament, which was held in Helsinki in spring this year.

The Socialist International set up a special working group for disarmament headed by Kalevi Sorsa, chairman of the Social Democratic Party and Prime Minister of Finland. On behalf of the working group, he addressed a letter to General Secretary of the CPSU CC, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev expressing the wish to hold a meeting and exchange views with the Soviet leadership.

In his reply address Leonid Brezhnev expressed the readiness of the Soviet side for such a meeting and exchange of views, reaffirmed the proposals put forward by the CPSU earlier and expressed confidence that the public forces, above all the parties taking part in the working-class movement, will make a considerable contribution to actions directed at ending the arms race at disarmament.

"The Soviet communists followed with great attention, the authors of the article note, the work of the schedule congress of the Socialist International in Vancouver (Canada) in November, as it discussed problems of disarmament and prospects of detente.

The congress has shown that the negative trends in the international situation are a source of concern for the social democrats.

The congress adopted a political resolution declaring for the acceleration of international talks concerning a ban on nuclear weapon tests, strengthening of regime of its nonproliferation, implementation of mutual confidence measures, etc. The document draws attention to the fact that the permanent growth of military spendings not only creates a growing threat to peace, but also distracts enormous resources from the satisfaction on burning economic and social needs. It shall be recalled that the communists permanently point to the close interconnection between the tasks of strengthening peace, ending the arms race and social progress. This is stated in many documents of the communist movement."

"Thus, there are common aspects in the attitudes of the communists and social democrats to disarmament problems and to interrelationship between detente, disarmament and social progress. Hence, the communists draw the conclusion that there is a sufficiently wide basis for joint or parallel actions by various trends of the international working-class movement. It must be said that certain advances have been observed in this respect in recent years, but there are still also no few obstacles. Both have been reflected at the Vancouver congress.

Noting the constructive character of a number of stands of the social democrats one cannot help feeling at the same time that their discussion at the congress was in a large measure of a declarative character. No large-scale programme for such a practical action in this field has been put forward so far.

The real causes of the arms drive were passed over in silence as a matter of fact, but at the same time claims were made contrary to facts about some "equal responsibility" for it of the USA and the USSR. Thus, at hand is a striving to come out from the positions of an observer. Unlike the past, the fact of consent of a number of the social democratic parties with the policy of NATO and even the participation of some governments in outlining it were not publicized. On the contrary, every effort is made to pass over this fact. Meanwhile, the role of the North Atlantic alliance in whipping up the arms race is well known. Suffice it to recall the decisions of the recent NATO Council sessions."

"The Congress in Vancouver has reflected the complex, dissimilar processes under way in the social-democratic movement. Although it claims a large part of the resolution of topical problems, its positive contribution is far both from the available possibilities and the demands of the times," the article points out.

KISSINGER'S 'GEOPOLITICAL DISTORTIONS' OF SOVIET POLICY HIT

ID291101Y Moscow ZA RUBEZHOM in Russian No 52 Signed to Press 21 Dec 78 p 6 LD

[G. Kuznetsov article: "Propagation of Enmity Under Cover of 'Geopolitics'"]

[Text] Arnaud de Borchgrave, senior editor of America's NEWSWEEK magazine who specializes in interviews with high-ranking statesmen, is among the elite of U.S. bourgeois journalists. Proceeding from his devotion to cold war which, incidentally, is generously rewarded by NEWSWEEK's masters, he is a fierce advocate of an aggressive policy line by American imperialism and a champion of the unrestricted buildup of American military might for the sake of implementing a "position of strength" policy. His writings are permeated with overt hostility toward the cause of detente, arms reduction and disarmament and toward USSR foreign policy, which he remorselessly distorts.

His most recent interview--with former U.S. Secretary of State H. Kissinger--was typical. As can be concluded from the text of the conversation published in NEWSWEEK, the interviewer and Kissinger, who answered his questions and played the role of oracle, proved worthy of one another: Provocative questions were followed by answers steeped in the spirit of overt anti-Sovietism, answers which deliberately turned upside down the entire analysis of international development with the object of defaming the USSR's peace-loving policy.

For instance, here are questions typical of the arsenal of the champion of cold war: "Soviet leaders appear to believe that the era of U.S. predominance is ending and that of Soviet supremacy beginning. What can be done to change these perceptions?" "Even more important than nuclear equality [ravenstvo] is conventional power and the political will to use it. Isn't this a critical advantage for the Soviet Union?" "Do you believe that Moscow plans to acquire control over two key points--the Persian Gulf and southern Africa--in order to induce reflexes of appeasement and the neutralization of West Europe?"

This interview appeared after the publication of the Warsaw Pact declaration and its author ought to have read this document: "The socialist countries which are members of the Warsaw Pact firmly oppose the policy of intensifying the arms race and attempts at military blackmail. They state once again that they themselves have never strived and do not strive for military superiority; their military efforts are aimed and will always be aimed solely at insuring their defense capability. They proceed from the premise that the military equilibrium in Europe and the world must be maintained not by building up armaments but by reducing them and making a resolute transition to specific disarmament measures, particularly nuclear disarmament." It is difficult to suppose that Arnaud de Borchgrave is unfamiliar with these and other provisions of the declaration aimed at achieving disarmament and extending detente. He also must know of the dozens of peace initiatives by the USSR, including those forwarded in the United Nations. Therefore his questions are a deliberate provocation against the foreign policy of the USSR and the other socialist community countries.

Despite the patent bias of the "interviewer" the "interviewee" Kissinger, faced with incontrovertible facts of history, could not help but acknowledge certain obvious truths, for instance that the undermining of U.S. prestige was the result of the ruinous Vietnam war and the Watergate scandal and that "the administration undoubtedly dug its own grave." Among his assessments there is an admission that "a sound policy must be based on strict reciprocity," that "detente, properly conceived, is a necessity," and "if the Soviet Union is prepared to operate on acceptable principles of peaceful coexistence, then I think we should be restrained [NEWSWEEK version has 'generous'] and flexible in our response."

Unfortunately the grains of rationality (although they too are "sprinkled" with an "infusion" of anti-Sovietism, for the former secretary of state regards "acceptability" and "correctness" from a subjective U.S. viepoint) are lost in a heap of highly contaminated propaganda. Kissinger passes off his own--distorted--assessment of Soviet foreign policy as the essence of this policy insofar as he approaches it with his own yardsticks--the yardsticks of one of the authors of Washington's imperialist course which is characterized by an unrestrained desire for an arms race and for the implementation of plans for world political and economic domination. Hence there are the false assertions--refuted by the entire content and history of Soviet foreign policy--that "basic Soviet strategy is to achieve a maximum degree of influence and the gradual reduction of our own world position" and that "Russia has engaged in a massive buildup of its military forces which, if projected into the eighties and unmatched by the West, is bound to create a grave political weakness" on the part of the United States. And as a consequence of these false premises there is the assertion that "we cannot accept the idea of Soviet dominance," "Moscow has to understand that we are determined not to fall behind in an arms race," "they cannot possibly win an arms race against the United States," and so forth.

Incidentally Mr Kissinger certainly knows that Washington, not Moscow, is the initiator of the arms race, that is advantageous to the mighty arms kings and is therefore being whipped up by the U.S. military-industrial complex. He knows that Moscow, not Washington, is the author of more than 70 proposals on ending the arms race and on disarmament which have met with broad support from the world public. And the latest document in this sphere is the Warsaw Pact declaration, in which many peace initiatives are reasserted and developed. "There is no type of arms," the declaration says, "which the socialist states at the conference would not be prepared to limit or reduce on the basis of strict observance of the principle of guaranteeing each country's security."

The NEWSWEEK interview shows particularly clearly the narrowness and arrogance of Kissinger's thinking as a bourgeois figure who reduces all the historically inevitable changes taking place in the world to "geopolitical confrontation" between the United States and the USSR, completely disregarding the will of sovereign states and juggling historical facts. He ascribes the proclamation of an independent Angola, which in accordance with the people's wish declared its intention of following the path of building socialism, not to the victories of the national liberation struggle or the collapse of the Portuguese colonial empire, accelerated by the 25 April 1974 revolution, but to the "appearance of Cuban troops." Here Kissinger maintains a modest silence on the fact that he himself, as secretary of state, leader of the "40 Committee" and former presidential adviser on national security, sanctioned CIA interference in Angolan affairs on the side of pro-imperialist splittists, called for allocation of tens of millions of dollars and for mercenaries to be sent there, and also encouraged South African aggression. The truth about Cuba's "interference" is that its international assistance, given at the request of the legitimate Luanda government in the face of foreign intervention, only helped to avert the exportation of counterrevolution.

On the basis of "geopolitical" premises Kissinger asserts that the national revolution in Afghanistan is a "take-over" and the result of ... insufficient active U.S. interference in Angola.

He regards events in Iran from the viewpoint of the adequacy of inadequacy of U.S. influence in this region, as if the Persian Gulf was an American state. The same approach can be clearly traced when Kissinger starts talking about the Near East, praising the present administration for the Camp David deal and admitting that he was always against a general settlement in this region based on the Geneva peace conference.

The Washington POST newspaper, which cannot be accused of particular adherence to detente, assessed the Kissinger interview as a help to American supporters of the "cold war," who are trying to wreck the strategic arms limitation treaty which is in preparation. It is hard not to agree with this verdict.

PAPER STRESSES SOVIET 'READINESS TO NORMALIZE' U.S. TIES

LD291009Y Moscow ZA RUBEZHOM in Russian No 52 Signed to Press 21 Dec 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Great Achievements Lie Ahead"]

[Excerpt] In the Interests of Mankind

Everywhere in the world Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's name is linked with the Soviet Union's persistent struggle for the speediest solution of the key problem of the present day--the disarmament problem. The peace-loving initiatives he has personally advanced in this important sphere are widely known. The world public rates highly the constant attention which Comrade L.I. Brezhnev pays to the Soviet-U.S. talks on the concluding of a strategic arms limitation agreement.

As L.I. Brezhnev has stressed, the peace and well-being of both our countries' peoples and peace throughout the world depend largely on normal relations and mutual understanding between the USSR and the United States. Substantial progress has now been achieved in work on the agreement. There is no doubt that it would be even more considerable were it not for the continuing U.S. campaign against its conclusion. Mounted by reactionary circles closely linked with the U.S. military-industrial complex, it has caused the talks to be dragged out and has created considerable difficulties to the path of their successive completion.

The Western imperialist forces' attempts to return the world to cold war times are encountering resolute resistance from the world democratic public and the fraternal resistance from the world democratic public and the fraternal socialist countries. Today the future development of Soviet-U.S. relations largely depends on the wise statesmanship of U.S. leaders. For its part the Soviet Union has frequently stressed its readiness to normalize these relations and to achieve a situation in which these relations are constantly developing.

On the eve of the new year Soviet people are looking into the future with optimism. The Soviet society of developed socialism is a reliable bulwark of peace and the peoples' security.

KORIONOV WARNS WEST OF 'THREAT' OF 'MAOIST REICH'

LD281231Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Dec 78 p 4 LD

[PRAVDA political commentator Vitaliy Korionov article: "A Shortsighted Game"]

[Text] The Western countries' press in increasingly frequently publishing reports which provoke caution among people who are extremely worried about the fate of world peace. The point in question is the dangerous game with Peking which certain politically shortsighted forces in NATO countries are organizing.

As is known, China's rulers are doing their utmost to parade their hostility toward the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. Ultimately this is due to Peking's desire to gain access to NATO's military arsenals so as to implement its great-power schemes. Unfortunately, certain circles in Western countries are "rising" to the Peking bait.

The U.S. press reported that, during his visit to Peking last spring, Z. Brzezinski, the U.S. President's national security adviser, informed the Chinese leaders of U.S. consent to West European countries' supplying certain types of weapons to China.

R. Burt wrote in the New York TIMES: The United States has acquainted London with a "new U.S. policy whose essence is not to prevent the British or other allies from supplying military equipment to China." The United States, the correspondent stated, "has given the go-ahead to its allies."

World public attention is attracted, in particular, by reports of a deal preparing the sale of British Harrier VTOL warplanes to Peking. Some people are attempting to pass off this aircraft, which forms part of the NATO air forces' arsenals, as a "defensive" weapon. But this subterfuge deceives no one. Even the British FINANCIAL TIMES admits: "Harrier aircraft will give China an offensive capability." Consequently we are talking about a premeditated attempt to dupe the peoples. "The China card," the U.S. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR writes, "is being played not openly but to a considerable extent through the opening of Western markets to Chinese customers."

While encouraging its allies to supply weapons to China, Washington itself time and again sends figures of a "hawkish" type to Peking on official missions. Let us merely recall the pomp with which former Pentagon Chief J. Schlesinger, now U.S. energy secretary, was received in China. When greeting the U.S. visitor Hua Kuo-feng called him "our old friend," and in reply the latter declared that China's "strength" is "extremely important to the United States."

In turn, Peking is sending more and more delegations to France, Japan, the FRG, Italy and other countries in search of weapons markets.

It is reported that Peking emissaries are in France trying to buy air defense missiles, artillery guns, missile-carrying launches, torpedo boats and other arms. The Chinese militarists' emissaries are at the same time stealthily approaching the Italian weapons market. Information has also made its way into the foreign press to the effect that "Peking and Tokyo intend to build tanks jointly."

A striking point is a deal concerning the sale to Peking of nuclear reactors for power generation. Such an agreement, AP reports, was signed between France and China this month in the Chinese capital. It will be implemented by the French firm Framatome, which will supply Peking with two such reactors built under license from the U.S. Westinghouse company.

Assurances may of course be given here that a number of conditions have been imposed concerning the use of the equipment solely for peaceful purposes. But who will take it on himself to give a firm guarantee that the spent reactor cores will not subsequently be used by China for military purposes? After all, as was pointed out in the Western press, a directive exists in China that plutonium be extracted from spent nuclear fuel which has been used to generate power in reactors--the plutonium which is used to manufacture nuclear weapons.

Where, then, is this deal leading? It is by no means an idle question.

An acute struggle is developing between U. S. concerns and those of other leading capitalist powers for the Chinese market and Peking will unddoubtedly take advantage of this struggle in the interests of strengthening its military-economic base.

The flirtation with Peking is being inspired in the West by the most reactionary imperialist circles, which do not like detente and which are prepared to ditch the Helsinki accords and all other agreements aimed at improving the international situation. These forces which are seeking to encourage the Maoists' expansion are not very large, but they have at their disposal no small potential, including propaganda.

Those in the West who are counting on playing the "China card" believe that they will succeed in spearheading Chinese expansionism only against the USSR. Meanwhile arming China is dangerous for the cause of world peace and for the destiny of detente. "China's amicability toward the West," the Washington POST observes, "is a tactical maneuver aimed at damaging Soviet-U.S. relations and ultimately at provoking a confrontation between the United States and the USSR . . . . As a result, far greater harm will be inflicted on U. S. interests."

Chinese expansionism presents a threat to many peoples. For instance, Peking's far-reaching hegemonist schemes in Southeast Asia are well known. More than 10 countries have already found themselves the target of the so-called "cartographic aggression" of the present Chinese leaders (that is to say, of the territorial claims denoted on maps published in Peking).

It is no accident that reports on the Western countries' intention to supply arms to Peking are arousing growing anxiety in India, Indonesia and other Asian states. Let us say frankly that there are grounds for this anxiety.

Some time ago a report was published by the group of "congressmen for peace within the law" noting that, in steering a course toward rapprochement with China, the United States is actually giving the Chinese leadership a free hand to pursue a policy of diktat and oppression with respect to Southeast Asian states bordering on China.

Recent facts attest that Peking is also seeking "keys" to the oil-rich countries of the Arab East and Persian Gulf, and its maneuvers with respect to countries belonging to the nonalined movement are obviously dictated by the desire to establish its hegemony in this movement and at the same time to get its hands on the enormous resources of the developing countries to implement its "modernization" plans, centered round the buildup of China's Armed Forces.

The policy of encouraging the Maoists' expansionism is also obviously unpopular among broad strata of the U. S. population. Graphic proof of this can be found in the results of a public opinion poll carried out by Washington's Potomac associates organization. [paragraph continues]

Some 70 percent of those polled opposed giving U. S. armaments to Peking. It is characteristic that 75 percent of Americans, in turn, favor reaching a SALT-II agreement with the USSR.

"Our relations with Moscow," the U. S. magazine ASIAN SURVEY writes, "are far more important than our relations with Peking." "The China card," the well-known observer J. Kraft notes, "is now being played by China itself." Recalling the Maoists' perfidy, the U. S. journalist states: "The Chinese should not be given the false hope that the United States is prepared to support their anti-Soviet strategy, and that means that China should not be supplied with any arms . . . ."

U. S. researcher H. Morgenthau, whom it is difficult to suspect of sympathies for the Soviet Union, also warns against the danger of a Peking alliance. If "playing the China card," he writes, were something like a drawing-room game played at a scientific seminar or a staff exercise, it could be dismissed as innocent amusement. It is another matter when there is an attempt to make this official U. S. policy. "It is obvious," H. Morgenthau writes, "that China's interests are not identical with U. S. interests. While the United States imagines it is playing the China card, China intends to play the U. S. card against the Soviet Union . . . . Consequently, for the United States playing the China card is fraught with great perils."

The consequences for Europe of a policy of connivance with Peking's expansionism are no less obvious. The British magazine THE NEW STATESMAN reasonably warns that Chinese arms purchases in the West could cause a general increase in world tension. And Cologne's WELT DER ARBEIT adds: "It should not be forgotten that the Chinese have always been masters at pursuing a policy of duplicity."

The present Peking leaders' course is fraught with considerable dangers to the cause of peace and socialism. But, as the GDR weekly HORIZONT rightly notes, "the Peking leaders' desire for world rule will be smashed against reality. The peoples have not thrown off and are not even now thrown off the yoke of imperialist exploitation and oppression in order to be enslaved in a Maoist reich." The world revolutionary process is leading mankind from the last bastion of exploitation to socialism and communism. There is no place there for Peking's hegemonism!

CHRISTOPHER'S VISIT TO TAIWAN, PRC'S 'CONCESSIONS' NOTED

LD282150Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1740 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Gennadiy Ariyevich]

[Text] As has already been reported, a U. S. State Department delegation led by Warren Christopher, deputy secretary of state, has arrived in Taiwan. The aim of the visit, according to news agency reports, is to discuss the question of the future of U. S.-Taiwanese relations in connection with the establishment in January of full diplomatic relations between Washington and Peking.

It is reported from Taipei that the U. S. delegation was greeted with a large protest demonstration, continuing into its second day. Police subunits are unable to impose order in the city. The situation has become so heated that a U. S. Embassy spokesman has stated that he is not sure that the talks will be able to begin at the appointed time.

U. S. Chinese and U. S.-Taiwanese relations are currently being widely commented on by news agencies. While admitting the naturalness of such a step as the establishment of diplomatic relations between two countries, observers are at the same time expressing surprise at Peking's position, for it has always declared that Taiwan is the territory of the People's Republic of China.

The decision announced by the Pentagon about arms supplies to Taiwan and now the visit by Christopher, who is to discuss--and I emphasize, U. S.-Taiwanese relations in the future--all testifies to the fact that Peking has effectively changed its position on the Taiwan question, and changed it to please Washington. In the opinion of observers, this is one of Peking's most important concessions.

Moscow on Taiwan's Anger

LD291322Y Moscow World Service in English 0900 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Oleg Vekov commentary]

[Text] For the past few days Taiwan has been the scene of what are described as popular demonstrations following the decision of the United States to establish full diplomatic relations with China on January 1st. Here is a comment from Oleg Vekov:

The demonstrations are taking place outside the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where a visiting delegation of top American officials is due to begin talks with the Taipai regime on the future relations between the United States and one of its most loyal regimes in the past 30 years. The start of the talks is reported to have been postponed indefinitely as a result of the outbreak of popular indignation.

I find it hard to understand the reason for the outbreak of anger in Taiwan. After all, although Washington has decided to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, it has at the same time hastened to allay any fears that its supporters on the island may have. Washington declares that the military treaty on mutual defense between the United States and Taiwan remains in force, and the United States will continue its [words indistinct] and other links with Taiwan.

Now what prompted Washington and Peking to establish rapprochement? It's generally recognized that the two countries have much in common on major international issues. For example, in recent years the two countries have invariably sided with reactionary forces opposed to national liberation movements. Events in Angola is one case in point.

The reason why Peking wants to establish rapprochement with Washington is easy to see. It's hoping--and, by all indications, not without grounds--to gain access to American weaponry. With this objective in mind, Peking has been making all sorts of concessions to Washington. In the past Peking refused even to play with the idea of normalizing relations with the United States until that country had broken off its relations with Taipai. Now there's a growing understanding in the Chinese capital of what is termed the United States' concern for the need to insure Taiwan's defenses.

The United States, for its part, is not on the losing end either. On the contrary, it has something to gain. The expansionist policy of the present Peking leadership suits it all the more so, with the establishment of diplomatic relations with China, the United States acquires an even greater freedom of maneuvre in Asia.

Small wonder, long before the present relationship with China made its appearance, the New York SUNDAY NEWS noted the existence of understanding between the two countries that they would conduct their foreign policies with some degree of parallelism in certain parts of the world.

'JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT' ON AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT

LD281605Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Dec 78 p 4 LD

[Apparent text of "joint announcement [soabshcheniye] on the visit to the USSR by W. Pahr, federal minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Austria"]

[Text] Austrian Foreign Minister Willibald Pahr paid an official visit to the Soviet Union 18 through 20 December at the Soviet Government's invitation.

W. Pahy was received by A.N. Kosygin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

Talks which proceeded in a friendly and businesslike atmosphere were held between A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, and Austrian Foreign Minister W. Pahr. The state of Soviet-Austrian relations, the prospects for their further development and also certain international problems were considered in detail.

The ministers noted with satisfaction that Soviet-Austrian relations are strengthening steadily in the political, economic, cultural and other spheres. The direct contacts between the leaders of the USSR and Austria are of great importance for insuring this development.

The sides reaffirmed their determination to make efforts to insure that the cooperation between the Soviet Union and Austria continues to improve while the mutual understanding between the Soviet and Austrian peoples continues to strengthen. The State Treaty and Austria's constitutionally enshrined status of permanent neutrality still provide a reliable foundation for this. The existence in the center of Europe of a neutral Austria pursuing a policy line of detente and peaceful cooperation is a factor for stability on the continent.

In the discussion of international problems particular attention was paid to strengthening security and developing cooperation in Europe. Both sides expressed the firm intention of doing everything in their power to insure that detente becomes a constant and comprehensive process of general scope, as envisaged by the conference Final Act adopted in Helsinki. The sides are convinced that the fulfillment by all the conference participants of all the provisions of the Final Act is an inalienable precondition of successful progress along this path.

The ministers reaffirmed the fidelity of the Soviet Union and Austria to the task of expanding all-European cooperation in various spheres and in particular in the spheres of environmental protection, the development of transportation and the power industry.

The sides intend to contribute to the successful holding in Madrid in 1980 of a regular meeting of representatives of the states which participated in the all-European conference and also the other multilateral measures agreed at the Belgrade meeting.

The sides were unanimous that the interests of insuring a peaceful future for mankind demand urgent measures aimed at ending the arms race and achieving real disarmament, particularly in the sphere of all types of nuclear weapons.

The sides believe that it is necessary to persistently continue efforts aimed at reducing military confrontation so as to supplement political detente in Europe with military detente and to strengthen security throughout the world. [paragraph continues]

In this connection they stressed the importance of the successful completion of the Soviet-American talks on the limitation of strategic offensive armaments and also of the Vienna talks on reducing armed forces and armaments in central Europe.

In the course of their talks the ministers also discussed certain other international problems, including the situations in the NearEast, Cyprus and Southern Africa.

The sides believe that their talks were useful and accord with the task of further developing the friendly relations between the Soviet Union and Austria in the interest of their peoples and of peace in Europe.

W. Pahr reaffirmed the invitation previously conveyed to A.A. Gromyko to pay an official visit to Austria. The invitation was accepted with gratitude. The time of the visit will be agreed through diplomatic channels.

UK SAID BEING BLACKMAILED BY PRC OVER JUMP JETS DEAL

LD282324Y Moscow in English To Great Britain and Ireland 1900 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[Commentary by Igor Tsurin of the NOVOSTI Press Agency]

[Text] On Christmas eve there was assurance from official quarters in Britian that the negotiations with China on the sale of 70 Harrier jump jets would be completed in a few months. These official assurances followed a statement from the conservative member of Parliament, Kenneth Warren, that Peking was preparing to abandon the deal because of British cabinet delays. Just before that, the DAILY TELEGRAPH informed the public that Peking did not wish to wait until the British industry secretary, Eric Carley visited China in February.

All the signs indicated that what has been going on is a most striking piece of political blackmail, moreover, what one might call double blackmail. On the one hand, the Peking visitors Wang Chen and Lu Tung made it plain to the Palace and Cabinet that the (?future) Anglo-Chinese military package deal would fall through unless London agreed to sell the Harriers.

On the other hand, the Tories have stepped in to capitalize on the political situation by accusing the government of following in the lead of the left in this matter. The prime minister is being offered the choice of either moving even further right with the risk of losing the election to the Tories, or of incurring the risk of being accused of all but pro-Sovietism. Seriously, it doesn't seem to have occured to a single newspaper in Britian to ask the Tories whether they are not in this case acting as a pro-China lobby, whether it's not they who are, in fact, casting doubt on Britain's political independence by acting as foreign salemen for the Peking military authorities. Indeed, it is hard to disagree with Labor Member of Parliament Frank Allaun, who said that the Harrier sale would seriously aggravate Anglo-Soviet relations and have a dire effect on the policy of relaxation. This may be unimportant to the opposition he added, but it is important to me, to my children, and to the whole of mankind.

In London, it is a secret to no one--centainly not to the Tories--that China plans to deploy the Harriers on the Chinese-Soviet border. But even if the Chinese generals had no such plans, Tory defense correspondents were quick to suggest them. Recall the writings, say of Henry Stanhope in THE TIMES and Clare Hollingworth in THE DAILY TELEGRAPH. And there is more to it than just a possible unfriendly act which this Anglo-Chinese arms deal would certainly be. The plans to sell arms to China evidently have to be viewed in conjunction with certain specific features of Peking's foreign policy, which affects not only Soviet interests. What is being contemplated is a sale of arms to a country that has territorial claims to many of its neighbors, a country that tends to hold aloof the talks on ending the arms race and disarmament, and last but not least, a country that has accepted the premise that a third world war is inevitable. In this context it is probably worth recalling the history of the Munich betrayal and the behavior of Neville Chamberlain, whose anti-Sovietism prompted him to give Hitler a free hand. Britain paid for this dearly in the crisis year of 1940 and the agonizing war years that followed.

Peking is still further away than Berlin, but can the London politicians in favor of arming China give their fellow countrymen any guarantees that Peking will, in its adventures, really follow the directions indicated by the West and not turn its arms against it at some future dtate? It would probably be hard to give any such guarantee, and it has to be admitted that there are many in Britain, in the government included, who realize this and have cautioned against military collaboration between the West and China.

Time will soon show how realistic and foresighted Britain's position is in the matter of a military liaison with China. As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, it is convinced such plans are incompatible with the repeated statements by British policymakers professing a commitment to relaxation, disarmament and the development of constructive Anglo-Soviet relations.

TRANSFER OF U.S. FORCES TO NORTH OF FRG DRAWS COMMENT

LD282242Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1722 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Bonn--The commanders of the NATO bloc are undertaking new efforts to build up armed forces on the territory of the FRG. Political observers see confirmation of this in the transfer now under way to the Bremen region in the north of the FRG of an American Army motorized brigade totaling 4,100 officers and soldiers. The brigade is equipped with 400 tanks, 500 vehicles of various kinds and other military equipment.

Over 3,000 of the soldiers come from the U.S. State of Texas and the remainder from southern areas of the FRG where they have been located since 1975.

Reports have appeared in the press that, under plans drawn up by NATO generals, other tank and motorized units, as well as a large quantity of military equipment, are due to be transferred to Lower Saxony. Moreover, it is planned to deploy in this same land units of the U.S. Air Force, equipped with the latest fighter planes.

Observers note that the transfer to the north of West Germany of NATO units and formations is being carried out in accordance with the "forward based strategy" which is aggressive in nature and constitutes an integral part of a whole range of measures which NATO is carrying out with the aim of further strengthening its potential in central Europe.

These actions meet with growing resistance on the part of the population; 45,000 inhabitants of the FRG have already signed a statement protesting the creation of a new U.S. military base. UNZERE ZEIT stresses: "At the present time the movement of protest against a major U.S. military base in the north of the FRG is assuming an ever broader and acute nature."

FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER NEW YEAR COMMENT FOR ZA RUBEZHOM

LD281528Y Moscow TASS in English 1450 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 28, TASS--The policy of detente accords with the common desire of the Soviet Union and France. It became a reality which no one any longer challenges. This was stated by the foreign minister of France, Jean Francois-Poncet in his reply to the New Year's poll of the weekly ZA RUBEZHOM (LIFE ABROAD). It must be our task, he said, to deepen and develop detente throughout 1979. In Europe, detente will advance as steps are taken to fulfil the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference, dealing both with governments and individuals. That is why France is more determined than ever before to continue the policy of detente.

"But detente cannot be divorced from disarmament", the minister emphasized. As for disarmament, one should welcome the efforts exerted in 1978. The tenth special session and the proceedings of the 33rd session of the United Nations General Assembly have been evidence of the desire of the international community to achieve a real success along the road to disarmament, which increasingly is the most persistent demand of the time. France is particularly aware of this and that is why she would like to make her contribution which would reflect simultaneously both realism and the desire to achieve more. The minister emphasized in this context the significance of the relevant proposals made by France at the United Nations and also the holding of a conference on disarmament in Europe.

Assessing the development of cooperation between the USSR and France, the minister said: French-Soviet cooperation is developing satisfactorily. We were moved when Andrey Gromyko reaffirmed the privileged nature of the relations between the Soviet Union and France. His visit made it possible once again to stress the need of the French-Soviet dialogue and the continuation of the policy of detente.

Trade between the two countries, Jean Francois-Poncet went on to say, does not yet fully accord with our wishes. Further efforts must be exerted to attain the targets which were set at summit level.

I hope that a certain number of contracts and agreements will be signed in 1979.

France and the USSR jointly can still do a great deal. That is why when President Giscard d'Estaing and President Brezhnev meet in the USSR in 1979, they will have a wide choice of possibilities at their disposal. "I am convinced that this 'summit' will be just as useful as the meeting in Rambouillet was in 1977, and that it will help strengthening confidence and the development of cooperation between our two countries", the French foreign minister stressed.

SOVIET MEDIA CONTINUE TO COMMENT ON SITUATION IN IRAN

PRAVDA Scores U.S. Interference

LD291107Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Dec 78 p 5 LD

[Petr Yevgenyev article: "Interference Is Inadmissible"]

[Text] Mass antigovernment manifestations continue in Iran. In these conditions the U.S. ruling circles and a special U.S. group who recently arrived in the guise of advisors in the Iranian capital are busy looking for a way out of the present situation.

This U.S. group reportedly consists of 60 persons--representatives of the CIA, the State Department and other overseas agencies. Formally this "landing party" went to Iran for an on-the-spot study of the situation. But in fact its members are looking for politicians who, in their opinion, could be included in a new government and work out recommendations as to the form in which the shah could keep his power. According to the foreign press, the special group is operating not without connections with SAVAK, the Iranian secret police. The group is working out "recommendations" that suit the U.S. oil and military monopolies, but which run counter to the interests of the Iranian people and jeopardize Iran's sovereignty and independence.

Speaking at a press conference in Washington, a State Department representative stressed that the U.S. Embassy in Tehran has contacts with opposition leaders. Certain observers consider that Washington would be quite satisfied with a situation in which the shah temporarily left the country and a civilian government were created with the participation of a number of representatives of the opposition movement. The functions of head of state and commander in chief would be laid on a so-called ruling council for the time being.

Considering one candidate after another to the post of head of government, the U.S. special group is trying to find people who could help the United States keep its positions in Iran. The possibility of the emergence of other solutions to the crisis situation is not excluded in Tehran.

A great deal will evidently depend on the extent to which the main Iranian political forces--the head of state, the army and the opposition--will be able to reach a compromise. But at the same time it remains a fact that the situation in Iran is being influenced--with respect to a solution of the political crisis--by the U.S. special group.

This is nothing else but U.S. interference, which gives rise to quite understandable protests among broad public circles in Iran. Such interference is inadmissible and contradicts the standards of international law.

As to the Soviet Union, which has maintained traditionally, neighborly relations with Iran, it is strongly against foreign interference in the internal affairs of Iran by anyone, in any form and under any pretext, as has been stated firmly and resolutely before. The events in Iran are purely internal, and the issues involved in them should be settled by the Iranians themselves.

Losev in SELSKAYA ZHIZN

LD281557Y [Editorial Report LD] Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 16 Dec 1978 publishes on page 3 a 1,600-word Sergey Losev international review entitled "Persian Vortex."

It describes the peaceful antigovernment demonstrations in Iran on 10-11 December and the subsequent bloodshed allegedly caused by the Iranian authorities. The article goes on to criticize the role of U.S. military specialists and advisers, claiming that the CIA and the Pentagon are building up the Iranian Armed Forces with a veiw to making the country an anti-Soviet bridgehead and an appendage of imperialist military blocs. Losev concludes by noting U.S. and NATO plans for armed intervention in Iran and repeats Brezhnev's warning against such intervention.

Druzhinin Commentary

LD281650Y Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1400 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Reports coming in from Iran indicate a further worsening of the situation in that country. Iran is now going through a critical moment in its history, writes political observer of Soviet Television and Radio Aleksandr Druzhinin. A general strike continues. There is a growing wave of mass antigovernment actions that have spread throughout the country. The authorities are stepping up reprisals against demonstrators, trying to quell popular indignation by firearms, arrests, violence and terror.

One may say that the political future of Iran is being made today. The opposition raises the issue of the country's democratization, of curbing the power of the shah and even of wholly eliminating his regime. At this difficult period for the country, when the people of Iran themselves should determine their destiny, there appear more and more signs of rude interference from outside in the internal affairs of Iran.

I mean the policy of Washington, which is actively trying to influence the events in Iran. It is an open secret what role various American secret services, first of all the CIA, play in the Iranian affairs. Reports coming in from the Iranian capital say the United States Embassy in Tehran is engaged in energetic behind-the-scenes activities in support of the existing regime in its desparate attempts to stay in power, though Washington makes no secret of such activities. At his latest news conference, a State Department spokesman reaffirmed that no changes have taken place in the official course of the United States Government to fully support the shah's regime. The American press either does not conceal the reasons for the American interference in the affairs of Iran. American businessmen in Iran have a stake of thousands of millions of dollars to take care of, since the destiny of the money largely depends on the shah's fate, reports the UPI news agency. This is Iranian oil, which accounts for 5 percent of all the fuel consumption in the United States. These are American investments in Iran totalling $17 million; this, finally, the import of arms from the United States, worth $19 billion in the past 6 years alone.

Washington is also giving priority to American strategic interests. America regards Iran as a military stronghold on the juncture of the Middle East, Asia and Africa, an important advance post in the Indian Ocean area. To protect the interests of American monopolies and of the Pentagon, Washington is doing its utmost now, disregarding the fact that its interference further worsens the already tense situation as it is, blatantly violates international law and builds up dangerous tensions in the Persian Gulf area.

28 Dec Situation Report

LD281556Y Moscow TASS in English 1548 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

["Iran: Situation Growing Hot"--TASS headline]

[Text] Tehran, December 28, TASS--Business life in the Iranian capital is practically at a standstill today.

Most of the institutions and shops are closed because of strikes. Demonstrators are again in the streets. In a number of districts of the city troops used fire arms and tear-gas grenades to disperse demonstrators. On the main business street of Tehran they dispersed demonstrators who were on their way to the American Embassy.

Tehran Radio interrupts its broadcasts every 30 minutes and makes calls for a stringent economy of gasoline, kerosene, water, electric energy, bread, meat and other products. Queues at gas filling stations grew longer: The production of oil products in the country almost fully stopped because of the general strike of workers and employees of the Iranian National Oil Company.

A representative of the opposition National Front, Dariush Foruhar, has accused the regime of premeditated killing of civilians.

One of the leaders of the opposition in Majlis (lower chamber of Iranian Parliament) Ahmed Bani Ahmed, today held a press conference at which he urged the shah to abdicate.

"This is the only political solution, if the existing regime and its international supporters are to avoid a catastrophic confrontation with the people," he emphasized.

New York, December 28, TASS--Fallen trees and electric line poles, burnt and turned over cars have been left in streets of the city after yesterday's disturbances in the Iranian capital and violent clashes between troops and demonstrators. According to reports of news agencies, the place of the main disturbances was the area of Tehran University during the funeral of a professor of the technological institute killed by soldiers.

Though the organizers of a mourning procession had permission of the authorities for the funeral, it has been stopped by a line-up of troops who unexpectedly opened submachine gun fire on its participants. The people, UPI reports, were rushing about in search for a place to hide from bullets. The medical personnel of a near-by hospital, which took 8 dead bodies, assert that the majority of those killed, according to witnesses, not less than 50 in all, were carried away in army lorries in an unknown direction. In that action one of the soldiers, who refused to fire at people, killed his commander, and was then himself killed by an officer.

Moscow Persian Reports Demonstrations

LD281342Y Moscow in Persian to Iran 1130 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Dear listeners, we start our program with several reports received from Tehran: Mass antigovernment and anti-U.S. demonstrations took place once again yesterday in Tehran and other Iranian cities. In the capital, the demonstrators attempted to force their way through the line of soldiers and approach the U.S. Embassy, but members of the armed forces barred their way. Tens of thousands of people attended the funeral for the lecturer from Tehran Polytechnic who was shot by troops the day before yesterday. According to an opposition report, 6 were killed and 18 wounded.

The PRAVDA correspondent reports from Tehran that deputies to the National Consultative Assembly cut short their winter holidarys and convened an extraordinary session. Only one issue--the political and economic situation in Iran and ways of resolving the daily intensifying crisis--was placed on the agenda.

The extraordinary session of the Majlis, attended by government representatives and army generals, has been convened in circumstances of continued mass antigovernment and anti-U.S. demonstrations and powerful strikes by the workers. The demonstrators are demanding the resignation of the military government and an end to U.S. intervention in Iran's internal affairs. During the demonstrations in Tehran one of the lecturers of the polytechnic college--a well-known progressive personality--was killed. Tens of thousands of people gathered near Tehran University to protest the murder of the lecturer. According to a UPI dispatch, eight people were killed during violent clashes between demonstrators and troops and police near the university. Avenues leading to the Imperial Palace and the Majlis have been closed, and troops, policemen and tanks are deployed there. Military helicopters are constantly patrolling Tehran's airspace. Tehran's international airport is closed. The armed forces have once again used firearms to disperse demonstrators.

The PRAVDA correspondent then wrote: In (Shahbaz) Avenue I saw policemen with my own eyes opening fire on demonstrators to disperse them, running over them in cars and crushing them under their tires. Antigovernment demonstrations are taking place not only in Iran's cities, but also in small, remote villages, the inhabitants of which were divorced from the political struggle until quite recently.

In order to reduce the wave of political demonstrations the official authorities have dismissed the governors general in certain provinces and appointed new people to these posts. In Esfahan, the city's military governor has been changed. As a result of the powerful strikes by the workers, the oil and gas fields have been completely paralyzed. The tankers of Western countries cannot receive even a single liter of oil.

The work of all the customs offices has been halted and the workers of Iran Air have announced their strike. All flights have been canceled.

[Moscow in Persian to Iran at 1630 GMT on 28 December also reports on the 28 December demonstrations, stating: "It has been reported from Tehran that new antigovernment demonstrations took place in the Iranian capital today. The demonstrators demanded an end to U.S. intervention in Iran's internal affairs and loudly reiterated: Yankees, get out of Iran! It was reported that gunfire was heard in the streets of Tehran. Most offices and department stores are closed in solidarity with the demonstrators. The strike by oilfield workers continues. Ayatollah Khomeyni has called on the Iranian people to observe next Saturday as the first anniversary of the start of national demonstrations against the present regime. Opposition leader Ahmad Bani Ahmad has called for the establishment of an interim government. According to him, this government should abolish martial law, dissolve the secret police--SAVAK--guarantee freedom of the press and assembly, dissolve Parliament and hold new elections to the National Consultative Assembly within 3 months."

[In addition, Moscow in Dari to Afghanistan at 1330 GMT on 28 December carries a report on the 27 December demonstration. The report states: Massive new antigovernment and anti-U.S. demonstrations took place in Tehran and in other Iranian cities yesterday. In the Iranian capital, the demonstrators attempted to force their way into the U.S. Embassy but were stopped by the armed forces. Tens of thousands of people attended the funeral of one of the institute's professors who was killed by troops the day before yesterday. Clashes took place between the armed forces and the demonstrators in the vicinity of Tehran University. According to information provided by the opposition, 6 people were killed and another 18 were wounded. Oil extraction in Iran has been reduced to 4 percent of the norm as a result of the continuous strike. Iranian Government authorities have announced rationing for petroleum products."

[Moscow in Dari to Afghanistan at 1500 GMT on 28 December reports that "(?since) this morning thousands of inhabitants of Tehran, the Iranian capital, have been gathering in the city's center. Moreover, since last Saturday demonstrations have been raging furiously in Tehran and other cities demanding that the shah be deposed. Government forces hastily moved tanks and fresh military units into Tehran to disperse demonstrators and protect the U.S. Embassy. Talks aimed at finding a solution to the crisis that would better suit Washington have aroused the revulsion of Iranians. These talks are being conducted in Tehran by representatives of the U.S. State Department and the CIA. According to press reports, the United States wants the continuation of the monarchy, which relies on the army, and wishes to (?save) the notorious king."]

PRAVDA ON SINCERITY OF EGYPT'S TREATY AMENDMENT EFFORTS

LD281141Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Dec 78 p 5 LD

[Yuriy Glukhov article: "Building 'Bridges'"]

[Text] At the end of the year--"as the curtain comes down," as they say--U.S. diplomacy has made one more attempt to push Cairo and Tel Aviv toward the conclusion of a separate deal. To this end a tripartite meeting was organized in Brussels involving the U.S. secretary of state, the Israeli foreign minister and the Egyptian prime minister. It produced no visible results. But immediately after returning home Egyptian Prime Minister M. Khalil stated that "the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations have not yet reached deadlock," while M. Dayan, the chief of Israeli diplomacy, spoke of "building bridges." The question of resuming talks with Cairo was the topic at a special session of the Israeli Cabinet.

The Egyptian-Israeli negotiations have formally halted because of Egypt's "amendments" to the already prepared draft of the separate treaty with Israel. This involves "linking" the normalization of Egyptian-Israeli relations with granting so-called "autonomy" to the Palestinians on Jordan's West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Essentially however these "amendments" have no fundamental significance. Indeed, what is the point of linkage involving any deadlines if it is planned to grant only purely fictitious autonomy within the framework of the Israeli occupation! This playing with amendments is an obviously enforced subterfuge on Cairo's part. After all, it is well known that the Camp David accords have been rejected at the highest and most representative level--the pan-Arab summit conference held in Baghdad in November at the Iraq's initiative. The Baghdad decision spoiled the game of those who were attempting to drag other Arab countries into the U.S.-Israeli-Egyptian compact. Even so-called moderate Arab regimes opposed the separatist, capitulationist course. The Arabs' position has met with the support of the Soviet Union, the other fraternal socialist countries and the broad international public.

Under these conditions the supporters of separate deals have begun to maneuver, counting on lulling the vigilance of the Arab peoples and eroding the unity of their ranks. But preparation for a definitive formulation of the Camp David accords is continuing in the meantime. Washington is trying to force the deal through, to "build bridges" between Cairo and Tel Aviv. A large part here is played by the desire to save face: Any delay demonstrates anew the unsoundness of the course toward a separate deal in the Near East region.

KUZNETSOV-LED DELEGATION IN ALGIERS FOR BOUMEDIENE FUNERAL

LD290622Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The Soviet state delegation led by Kuznetsov, candidate member of the CPSPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, has arrived in Algeria to take part in the funeral ceremony of Houari Boumediene, president of the Algerian Popular and Democratic Republic and chairman of the Council of the Revolution.

On arriving at the airport the leader of the Soviet delegation conveyed condolences to the Algerian people in connection with their painful loss on behalf of Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, Aleksey Nikolayevich Kosygin and the entire Soviet leadership.

Soviet Leaders Visit Algerian Embassy

LD291010Y Moscow TASS in English 0956 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 29, TASS--Leonid Brezhnev, Aleksey Kosygin, Andrey Gromyko, Dmitriy Ustinov and Boris Ponomarev visited today the Embassy of the Algerian People's Democratic Republic in Moscow in connection with the untimely death of President of the Algerian People's Democratic Republic, Chairman of the Revolutionary Council Houari Boumediene.

With a minute's silence they paid homage to the memory of the loyal son of the Algerian people, outstanding leader of the national-liberation movement, prominent statesman and political leader of the Arab world and Africa, active supporter of friendly relations and broad cooperation of Algeria and the Soviet Union, and signed the book of condolences.

WASHINGTON POST NOTES ISRAELI PLANS FOR OCCUPIED LANDS

LD281438Y Moscow TASS in English 1234 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Washington, December 28, TASS--The Israeli authorities assessed As-Sadat's surrender, sealed in the Camp David agreements, as consent to their long-standing expansionist plans. The Washington POST reports today that Israel's foreign minister, Moshe Dayan, announced at a symposium in Tel Aviv the decision of the Israeli Government to begin implementing a broad programme of building new Israeli settlements on the occupied Arab territories. He said that within the next several years 20 such settlements would be built on the Jordan West Bank. It is now the right time to announce our intentions to the whole world, he emphasised.

Mordechai Zippori, the deputy defence minister, acknowledged a few days ago that implementation of that programme had already been begun. Earth work was underway to prepare building sites on occupied territories, he added. More, he pointed out, the building of roads leading to the sites of the future settlements and the preparation of the sites had been continued even during the three months "freeze" in building new settlements, which Israel's premier, Begin, had "accepted" during the Camp David talks.

Quoting governmental sources, the Washington POST says that the Israeli Cabinet would soon officially announce the building of three or four settlements in the Jordan River valley. The newspaper adds that a decision to this effect had already been endorsed in Tel Aviv by the special Ministerial Committee on Settlements.

Getting ever more brazen as a result of more and more concessions by As-Sadat, Israel's expansionist quarters at the same time seek to get rid even of those modest restrictions on Israeli control over the occupied Arab territories, which are contained in the Camp David agreements. Thus, according to the Washington POST, 19 Knesset members tabled a draft law envisaging the maintenance of Israeli control over "state" lands on the Jordan West Bank even after the granting of "autonomy." The bill also invests the Israeli authorities with the exclusive right to manage the few water resources in those regions and also makes the reservation that the jurisdiction of local Palestinian authorities will not apply to the Israeli settlers.

SYRIAN PARTY OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED ON TIES WITH USSR

LD2814444Y Moscow TASS in English 1250 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Damascus, December 28, TASS--'Abdallah al-Ahmar, deputy general secretary of the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party of Syria, said in an interview with the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH that the Soviet Union is a true friend of the Arab peoples. The USSR, he stressed, comes out for the establishment of a really just peace in the Middle East, supports the right of the Arab countries to have the Israeli-occupied territories restored to them and defends the legitimate national rights of the Arab people of Palestine. Syria and the Soviet Union, 'A. al-Ahmar went on, have common aims in the struggle against imperialism. Relations between them are relations of friendship. They rest on mutual understanding and cooperation and are aimed at ensuring the interests of the two countries and mutual benefit. Turning to the United States' Middle East policy, the Syrian leader said that this policy serves the interests of Israel. The American administration, he said, only talks of search for peace in the region while in fact encouraging Israel's aggressive actions and trying to compel the Arab peoples to surrender to the aggressor. The Arab countries, A. al-Ahmar stressed, reject such a policy and condemn attempts at a separate "settlement", attempts which have nothing in common with pursuit of peace.

'ARAFAT PRAISES SOVIET SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIANS

LD2820304 Moscow TASS in English 1645 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 28, TASS--The struggle by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries for peace, for a just settlement of international problems, against thermonuclear war has won the universal appreciation of the peoples. By concrete actions the Soviet Union proves its sincere striving for a just peace on earth, it was stated by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (?when) he replied to a new year questionnaire of the ZA RUBEZHOM WEEKLY. The Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community, Yasir 'Arafat said, come out against neocolonialist plans in respect of the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America, actively help these peoples uphold their right to shape their own destiny, to choose the road of their political, social and economic development. This aid is given in most diverse forms. It is not surprising that on being faced with this reality Western propaganda is trying to slander the true aims of the Soviet Union's foreign policy. But these are vain attempts, he stressed. Yasir 'Arafat spoke highly of the support given by the Soviet Union to the striving of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the entire Palestine people for independence and the recreation of its own state. "This is added evidence of the sincerity of intentions of the Soviet Union, a true friend of the peoples of developing countries struggling for freedom and independence," the Palestinian leader stressed. The USSR, he said further, is doing everything for a just and lasting peace to triumph in the Middle East. The Soviet Union is exerting great efforts to achieve a solution of these problems both in the United Nations Organization and in the Security Council, in the course of contacts with Arab and other countries of the world, including the United States. The need to strengthen peace in the Middle East and to respect the lawful rights of the Palestinian people was noted in the Soviet-American statement that was adopted in 1977. But the United States reneged on its promises and is now trying to solve the Middle East problem on terms dictated by it. The purpose of the United States is to establish a mythical "peace" similar to the one suggested by Chamberlain in Munich. The efforts of the Soviet Union to achieve a settlement of the conflict in the Middle East are directed at ensuring a lasting and just peace, and we appreciate this very much, Yasir 'Arafat stressed.

SITUATION IN TURKEY 'GRADUALLY STABILIZING'

LD281832Y Moscow TASS in English 1635 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Ankara, December 28, TASS--The situation in Turkey is gradually stabilising after the introduction of martial law in 13 of the country's provinces.

The curfew, imposed since last Sunday, was lifted in Maras, where several days ago right-wing extremists staged a provocation that resulted in the death of a hundred and the injury of more than a thousand people. But the streets of the town are still being patrolled by the army and gendarmerie. The instigators of the sanguinary incident are being identified and arrested. About a hundred people have already been detained.

The municipal authorities of Maras are giving assistance to the townspeople who suffered as a result of the rightists' provocation. Those who became homeless are being accommodated in tents and schools, provided with medicines, food and other prime necessities.

In areas under martial law measures are being taken to prevent any new action by the right wingers. Thus, in the Kars and Erzurum provinces the activities of all public and political organisations have been suspended and strikes and lockouts are prohibited till further notification. In the Istanbul Province it is prohibited to hold demonstrations and meetings, to wear arms, to distribute posters and leaflets of an incendiary nature. Emergency courts have been set up in Ankara, Adana, Istanbul, Erzincan, Erzurum and Elazig. The authorities in Erzincan and Sivas have ordered townspeople to immediately surrender the firearms that are in their possession.

As reported by the Turkish press, the prime minister of Turkey, Bulent Ecevit, received yesterday the chief of general staff of the Turkish Armed Forces K. Evren. They discussed questions of ensuring national security and implementing martial law.

Martial Law Directorate

LD281834Y Moscow TASS in English 1700 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Ankara, December 28, TASS--Today the Turkish Government announced the setting up of a coordinating directorate to control the observance of martial law, introduced in 13 provinces of Turkey following provocative actions by right-wing extremists in the town of Maras, when, as was earlier reported, about one hundred people died and more than a thousand were wounded.

The coordinating directorate includes the prime minister Bulent Ecevit, the chief of the general staff of the Armed Forces General K. Evren and General Yardymoglu. The directorate will discuss the situation in the country every day. Once a week enlarged sessions will be held, with the commanders of all the three arms of the armed forces, leaders of the national intelligence organization and the national security council attending.

MOSCOW COMMENTATOR EXPLAINS SOVIET POLICY IN AFRICA

LD282012Y Moscow in French to Africa 1700 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[Vladimir Kudryavtsev commentary]

[Text] The Western press and politicians are letting themselves get carried away about Soviet policy toward the African countries. One might believe that it was the Soviet Union--not the United States, Great Britain, France and the other imperialist powers--which had held sway over the whole of Africa, leaving behind underdeveloped economies, famine and ignorance; that it is the Soviet Union, not the imperialist powers, which is slowing the African countries' independent development; and that it was the Soviet Union helping the South African and Rhodesian racists to stay in power. The imperialist politicians and Western journalists have had to resort to calumny to [words indistinct] to discredit the Soviet Union and to deprive the African countries of its support. The West fears the Soviet Union's policy in Africa because the Soviet Union helps the African countries (?wholly), constantly and disinterestedly to liquidate colonialism and racism, to strengthen their economic and political independence, and to install a new and just world economic order.

In its statement on its African policy of 23 June 1978, the Soviet Government stressed that the policy of the Soviet Union toward Africa is clear and consistent. In the developing countries, as everywhere, it sides with the forces which defend national independence and social progress. It considers them as its combat friends. The statement goes on: The USSR is wholly on the side of the African peoples struggle against the maintenance of any form of vestiges of colonailism and racism in Africa, and against neocolonialism.

As an example, let us take the events in the Horn of Africa. Following these events, the Soviet Union was the target of particularly violent attacks, from the imperialists and from certain Arab countries. The Somali leaders even ended their friendship and cooperation treaty with the Soviet Union. But it was these events which most highlighted the just and principled elements in the USSR's policy. The USSR supported Ethiopia because its people had started implementing its national and democratic revolution, the struggle to liquidate feudalism and the struggle against foreign domination in the country. The Ethiopian events were an enormous step down the road of progress not only as far as the Ethiopian people were concerned, but if the imperialists, in complicity with the Ethiopian and other feudal counterrevolutionaries, had strangled the Ethiopian revolution, that would have been a setback for all the African liberation movements. That is exactly why the Soviet Union, attached to its principled line, came to the aid of the Ethiopian people at the request of the country's revolutionary government. And yet, you will say, the Soviet Union had a friendship and cooperation treaty with Somalia: Why did it not side with Somalia? Primarily because Somalia launched an armed aggression against Ethiopia, choosing as its target the province of Ogaden.

The Soviet Union had repeatedly emphasized that it had been and always would be with independent African states should they be attacked. The Soviet Union's principled policy was expressed in the fact that despite its treaty with Somalia, it came to the aid of the victim of aggression and did not support the Somali leaders' territorial expansionism.

The Soviet Union has always and everywhere demonstrated its principles and its consistency. It has no reason to disguise those principles or to abandon them, for they are in conformity with the norms of international morality, and are shared by ever more numerous countries and peoples in the world.

AFGHAN PRIME MINISTER ADDRESS TO OFFICERS REPORTED

LD281616Y Moscow TASS in English 1535 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Kabul, December 28, TASS--The April revolution, that handed over political power into the hands of working people, is continuing and will continue until a new society is built in Afghanistan free of exploitation, of class and national oppression, it was stated by the general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan Nur Mohammad Taraki, when he addressed officers of the People's Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. In order to uphold the revolution's gains and to ensure normal conditions for building the new society, Nur Mohammad Taraki said further, we need powerful armed forces capable of worthily rebuffing intrigues by forces of imperialism and reaction. This, he said, explains the attention that the People's Government is giving to the question of boosting our army's morale and militant spirit. Touching on questions of foreign policy, Nur Mohammad Taraki reiterated Afghanistan's desire to establish relations of sincere friendship and peace with all neighbouring states and declared for strict observance of the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. We have exceptionally good and warm relations with the Soviet Union. History itself, he said, confirms the sincerity and unselfishness of the Soviet people's friendship for Afghanistan. Another important aspect of the foreign policy of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, Nur Mohammad Taraki said, is struggle for lasting peace in the whole world. For this reason we resolutely come out for the banning of all types of weapons of mass annihilation, including the neutron bomb.

JOINT AFGHAN-VIETNAMESE COMMUNIQUE REPORTED

LD282014Y Moscow TASS in English 1950 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Kabul, December 28, TASS--The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam express satisfaction with the development of bilateral relations, says a joint Afghan-Vietnamese communique published upon completion of an official friendly visit to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan by a delegation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, headed by Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Nguyen Duy Trinh. In the communique the Vietnamese side highly appreciates the significance of the April revolution, carried out by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. Welcoming the successes of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in different spheres, it declares its support for the decisions and measures of the Afghan Government aimed at eliminating feudalism in the country with a view to build a new society. The delegation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam emphasized great significance of the conclusion of the Treaty of Friendship, Goodneighborliness and Cooperation between the USSR and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, the communique stresses. The sides stated their devotion to the policy of nonalignment and peaceful coexistence in accordance with the principles of the U.N. charter and resolutely denounced the designs of the forces of imperialism and reaction. Having discussed the Middle East situation, both sides expressed full solidarity with the struggle, waged by the Arab people of Palestine and declared that the separate Egyptian-Israeli agreements were contrary to the legitimate interests of the Arab peoples and cannot bring a fair and durable peace to that region. The communique stresses that the bilateral agreements, concluded in Kabul, on cooperation in culture, science, information and training of cadres will be an important factor in promoting the development and consolidation of the relations between the two countries.

PRAVDA CITES PHAM VAN DONG ON FRICTION WITH PRC, CAMBODIA

LD281553Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Dec 78 p 5 LD

[Text] Hanoi, 20 December, TASS--Peking's ruling circles are intensifying their hostile policy toward Socialist Vietnam by continuing to whip up tension on the Vietnamese-Chinese border and resorting to various kinds of maneuvers aimed at making the building of socialism in our country more difficult, Pham Van Dong, member of the Vietnam Communist Party Central Committee Politburo and premier of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV], stated in an interview with the Mexican Newspaper UNO MAS UNO.

It has irritated China's leaders, who are pursuing great-power hegemonist and chauvinist objectives, that Vietnam is pursuing an independent and self-dependent policy. In order to weaken the SRV, bring pressure to bear on it and justify their own great-power policy, the premier said, they have stopped giving us economic assistance, created the problem of the ethnic Chinese resident in Vietnam and prompted the Phnom Penh clique of Pol Pot and Ieng Sary to unleash a border war against the SRV.

The Phnom Penh regimes' aggressive actions against Socialist Vietnam are an integral part of Peking's strategic course aimed at weakening Vietnam and creating conditions for the implementation of China's expansionist policy, which is directed toward achieving dominance in Southeast Asia, Pham Van Dong stressed.

As far as Vietnam is concerned, the premier said, it is prepared to firmly defend its independence and sovereignty and to strengthen its solidarity with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. At the same time the SRV has always respected friendship with the peoples of China and Kampuchea and has advocated and still advocates the solution of conflicts in relations with neighboring countries through peaceful negotiations. We are firmly convinced, Pham Van Dong declared, that in the final analysis justice will triumph and friendship between the Vietnamese and Kampuchean peoples will be victorious. We are doing everything to normalize relations with China but this depends primarily on the Peking authorities.

CAMBODIAN REGIONAL LEADER APPEAL TO OPPOSE GOVERNMENT NOTED

LD291211Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Dec 78 p 5 LD

[Text] Hanoi, 24 December, TASS--As the Kampuchean News Agency reports, in many regions of Kampuchea and in units and subunits of the Revolutionary Army meetings have taken place in which the participants warmly approved the formation of the Kampuchean National United Front for National Salvation (KNUFNS). The front's revolutionary course and policy is meeting with complete support among former commanders of the reactionary army who have gone over to the patriots' side.

A statement exposing the Phnom Penh clique's cruel, dictatorial regime was delivered by (Sa Mon), former deputy secretary of the 22d Region Party Committee. He called on fighters, officials and inhabitants of the 22d Region and the whole country to rise to the struggle against the reactionary Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique. Our nation's misfortunes are mainly due to the actions of the Chinese ruling circles, which are feeding and supporting the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique. Our people will never forget this, (Sa Mon) said. In response to the appeal contained in the KNUFNS declaration, the population of liberated regions and the revolutionary armed forces of Kampuchea are now waging an offensive against the reactionary Pol Pot-Ieng Sary troops.

PRAVDA REVIEWS BREZHNEV'S BOOK ON SOCIALISM

ID270946Y Moscow TASS in English 0803 GMT 27 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 27, TASS--The publishers of political literature has issued a book, "The World of Socialism--the Triumph of Great Ideas," by Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, devoted to the study of the influence exercised by socialism on the present situation in the world.

In its editorial article, PRAVDA says today that the process of the establishment and development of the world socialist system is showed consistently in the book.

Leonid Brezhnev describes the socialist community as an alliance of a new type, an alliance based not just on common state interests of the group of countries, but a fraternal family of peoples led by Marxist-Leninist parties, welded together by a common world outlook, by common lofty goals and relations of comradely solidarity and mutual support.

In his book, Leonid Brezhnev exposes attempts by opportunists as well as the reactionary anti-socialist policy of the Chinese leadership aimed at undermining the unity of the socialist countries, the article says.

The socialist countries, PRAVDA writes, undertake major foreign policy actions in defence of peace, against the arms race, for removing the threat of a new war, for disarmament and relaxation of international tension. They concert their actions in the world arena.

In his book, Leonid Brezhnev writes: "To create in the world such a climate in which potential aggressors, lovers of ventures and sabre-rattling, will meet with ever more resolute and universal rebuff from the peoples and in which peace, security and confidence in a peaceful future will become in fact a possession of ever broader masses in different regions of the world--is the goal worthy of devoted service by everyone who loves his people and thinks of the progress of mankind."

"Today we suggest making a radical step: Reaching agreement on simultaneous discontinuation of the manufacture of nuclear weapons by all states--any such weapons --be it atomic, hydrogen or neutron bomb or shells. At the same time the nuclear powers could undertaken to begin gradually reducing the existing stockpiles of such weapons, moving ahead, up to complete, 'a hundred percent' liquidation of this weapon."

MARSHEROV ADDRESSES BELORUSSIAN ANNIVERSARY MEETING IN MINSK

ID282032Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[Text] In Minsk today there was a festive session of the Belorussian CP Central Committee and the republic's Supreme Soviet with the participation of representatives of party, administrative and public organizations and the Soviet Army. It was devoted to the 60th anniversary of the Belorussian SSR and its Communist Party.

The festive session was opened by Masherov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Central Committee of the republic's Communist Party. He read out the greetings from the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers, which were greeted with prolonged applause.

Comrade Masherov went on to say: [begin recording] On the eve of this festival Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, asked me to convey to the participants of the festive session, the communists and all the working people of the republic ardent greetings [applause] and cordial congratulations on our anniversary and best wishes for successes in communist construction. [applause] Leonid Ilich, with his characteristic cordiality, recalled his stay in Belorussia and his meetings with our people. He spoke very warmly indeed about the Belorussian people and noted their high moral and political qualities and labor zeal. Leonid Ilich asked me to pass on that he shares our joy and is with us in heart and spirit on this notable day, dear comrades. [applause] In comprehending the majesty and significance of the path we have traveled since the unforgettable days of the victorious October Revolution and the establishment of Soviet power in our republic, we turn again and again in our hearts and minds to the great sources of all that comprises the glory, pride and that which is innermost and dearest in the life and destiny of the Belorussian people and of each Soviet person. [end recording]

Comrade Masherov went on to mention the successes of the Belorussian people in developing the republic's economy, science and culture. On its geographical map hundreds of industrial giants have appeared. An up-to-date industry has been created; it is quickly developing as an inseparable part of the country's unified national economic complex and includes mighty power-engineering, machine-building, instrument-making, chemical, petrochemical, electronics, radio-electronics and other industries at the peak of scientific-technological progress. Agricultural production is constantly rising. The republic has drawn nearly an average level of 30 quintals of grain crops. This year, almost five times as much grain was delivered to the homeland's granaries as in 1965. The consumer's table has been supplied with 2.34 million tons of potatoes.

Comrade Masherov then said: [being recording] Embodied in the enormous progress of the economy and culture of the republic, the transofmration and renewal of our ancient land, and the firm establishment of the Soviet way of life, is the triumphant force of the ideas of the Great October Revolution, the insuperable creative power of emancipated labor, and the creative might of the Leninist friendship of all the USSR's nations and ethnic groups. On behalf of the communists and of all our people on this notable day and at this festive time, we assure our own Leninist party, its Central Committee and the Central Committee Politburo with Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev at its head, that the republic's working people will continue in the future to sacredly fulfill their supreme patriotic and internationalist duty; to strengthen in every way the economic and defensive might of the Soviet fatherland; and, by their inspired labor, to firmly establish communism. [applause] [end recording]

Greetings were delivered at the festive session by leaders of delegations from Moscow and the union republics. The participants at the festive session enthusiastically adopted a letter of greetings to the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers.

KALMYTSKIY OBKOM FIRST SECRETARY RETIRES

LD291001Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Dec 78 p 2 LD

[Text] Elista, 20 December, TASS--A Kalmytskiy Obkom Plenum held here today examined an organizational question. In connection with his retirement B.B. Gorodovikov has been released from his duties as first secretary of the obkom. V.I. Nikulin, who has been working as second secretary of the Kalmytskiy Obkom, was elected first secretary of the Kalmytskiy Obkom.

AGRICULTURE MINISTER MESYATS DISCUSSES 1978 RESULTS

LD282138Y Moscow TASS in English 1946 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 28, TASS--The present agrarian policy in the USSR guarantees stability of agricultural production, declared Valentin Mesyats, USSR minister of agriculture, addressing a press conference in Moscow today devoted to the results of 1978. Though weather conditions were harsh for many regions, a record gross grain harvest was taken in -- 235 million tons. Overfulfilled were the targets for the production of vegetables, grapes, high-grade tea leaf. About 8.5 million tons of raw cotton was harvested. The production and purchases of meet, eggs, wool increased and a solid foundation has been put under next year's harvest. The industry is based on large, highly mechanized farms--27,000 collective and more than 20,000 state farms. Specialization and concentration of production is carried out on a wide scale, based on inter-farm cooperation and agroindustrial integration. The collective and state farms and inter-farm enterprises provide 90 per cent of all the marketable produce of agriculture and animal husbandry. The pesants are equipped with 26,600,000 tractors, hundreds of thousands of grain harvester combines, more than one and a half million trucks. Electrification and chemization of agriculture, as well as land reclamation are going on on a wide scale. Topical questions pertaining to the further development of Soviet agriculture, Valentin Mesyats said, were examined in depth and comprehensively at the July (1978) Plenum of the CPSU CC, which outlined the landmarks to be reached in the forthcoming five-year period (1981-1985). The average annual gross grain harvest must be raised to 238-243 million tons, and by 1990 to produce on an average a ton per capita by the country. It has been decided to bring up the production of meat towards the end of the next five-year period to 19.5 million tons. The production of milk, eggs, vegetables, fruit and other produce will also grow at a high pace.

[Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1200 GMT on 28 December carries a short report on Mesyat's remarks. According to this report, Mesyats stressed that "the general level of agricultural production development that was reached still does not come up to the rapidly growing requirements of our society, and energetic efforts are being made to exploit the reserves and possiblities more fully and to further strengthen the material-technical base of kolkhozes and sovkhozes."]

AZERBAIJAN SCIENTISTS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO AGRICULTURE NOTED

LD272230Y Moscow TASS in English 1713 GMT 27 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Baku, December 27, TASS--The use of superphosphate fertilizer, rich in microelements, has given an increment to [words indistinct] of 60,000 tons cotton harvest. The new fertilizer, elaborated by scientists of this Transcaucasian Republic, gave the farms more than 40 million (?roubles of) additional profits. Having noted the importance of the new development by chemists of the national Academy of Sciences, its president Gasan Abdullayev said at a general meeting of the academy today that in the past ten years the practical return of scientific exploration of biologists increased five times, as compared with the previous decade. The economic effect of developments of scientists, introduced into agriculture, amounted to hundreds millions roubles. Thanks to the development of botanists vineyard planatations were formed on thousands of hectares of once wasteland, which in the five-year period produced 25,000 tons of grapes--10 years ago that figure signified the total yield of that crop in the republic. The plant breeders handed over to farmers new high-production varieties of cotton, wheat, maize. Azerbaijan, which before the victory of Soviet power (1920) had no scientific institutions, now has scores of them working for agriculture. The sector of molecular biology and molecular genetics, formed at the Academy of Sciences, is shaping perspective directions of the development of biological sciences.

COSMOS-1069 LAUNCHED; EQUIPMENT FUNCTIONING NORMALLY

LD290712Y Moscow TASS in English 0709 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 29, TASS--Earth satellite Cosmos-1069 was launched in the Soviet Union on December 28 to continue outer space exploration.

Its initial period of revolution is 89.8 minutes, maximum distance from the earth's surface--290, minimum distance--244 kilometers and inclination of the orbit--62.8 degrees.

The onboard equipment of the satellite is functioning normally.

SALYUT-6 COMPLETES 15 MONTHS IN NEAR EARTH ORBIT

LD290829Y Moscow TASS in English 0813 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Flight Control Centre, December 29, TASS--The research station Salyut-6 has been functioning in the near earth orbit for 15 months. The station will have completed 7,200 turns around the earth by 14 hours of Moscow time today.

The orbit parameters of the Salyut-6 station are: maximum distance from the earth's surface 357 km, minimum distance--337 km, period of revolution--91.2 minutes, inclination of the orbit--51.6 degrees.

Trials of separate onboard systems, units and equipment are held during the automatic flight of the station.

The information coming to the earth is processed and studied.

The onboard systems of the Salyut-6 station are functioning normally.

The parameters of microclimate in the compartments are maintained within the limits set.

BREZHNEV CONGRATULATES ARMY OFFICERS ON NEW APPOINTMENTS

LD281142Y Moscow TASS in English 1137 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 28, TASS--Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and chairman of the Defence Council of the USSR, received in the Kremlin General of the Army Petrov, Colonel General Shestopalov (Engineering), and Colonel General Salmanov in connection with new appointments. Leonid Brezhnev warmly congratulated them on their appointment to new posts and wished them success in discharging the responsible tasks entrusted to them.

MILITARY LEADERS ATTEND VETERANS COMMITTEE PLENUM

LD281705Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Dec 78 p 3 LD

[Text] A plenum of the Soviet Committee of War Veterans devoted to the heroic-patriotic education of young people has been held. At the M.V. Frunze Central House of the Soviet Army representatives of sections of the Soviet Committee of War Veterans and active participants of the Civil War and Great Patriotic War discussed questions of enhancing the quality and effectiveness of the veterans' social work. The plenum was opened by Army General P.I. Batov, chairman of the Soviet Committee of War Veterans. Col Gen A.S. Zheltov, deputy chairman of the Soviet Committee of War Veterans, delivered a report. Col (Retd) A.P. Maresyev, secretary of the Soviet Committee of War Veterans, reported on the results of the veterans' work in 1978 and on the 1979 plan. The plenum participants were addressed by Vice Adm A.I. Sorokin, deputy chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate. The plenum adopted a detailed resolution envisaging the further improvement of the veterans' participation in the heroic-patriotic education of the rising generation. Taking part in the plenum's work were Marshal of the Soviet Union K.S. Moskalenko, USSR deputy defense minister, and A.I. Golyakov, sector chief of a CPSU Central Committee department.

KULIKOV, ROMANOV ATTEND LENINGRAD MD PARTY CONFERENCE

LD281659Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Dec 78 p 2 LD

[Text] Order of Lenin Leningrad Military District--A district party conference has taken place in an atmosphere of great activeness. Lt Gen V. Novikov, member of the Military Council and chief of the district Political Directorate, delivered the report at the conference. The keynote speaker and other speakers at the conference--Col Gen M. Sorokin, district commander; Comrades A. Lezin, V. Zatonskiy, I. Shirshin, N. Domashev, A. Bogdanov, and others--noted that the implementation of the historic decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and CPSU Central Committee plenums and of Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's instructions has enriched the organizational and ideological activity of the party organizations and helped to enhance the standard of the district troops' combat skill. The majority of subunits have achieved good results in combat and political training and are distinguishing themselves with firm discipline and organization. The commanders, political workers and party organizations are more purposefully implementing a comprehensive approach in the education of the personnel and have enhanced the efficiency of party-political work. Instances of low party exactingness and of a reduction in the quality of the training and educational process were criticized at the conference, and those specifically to blame for this were named. The delegates made businesslike suggestions for enhancing the combat readiness of the troops and for the improvement of party-political work. Marshal of the Soviet Union V. Kulikov, USSR first deputy defense minister and commander in chief of the Warsaw Pact Joint Armed Forces, addressed the conference. Taking part in the conference's work were G.V. Romanov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of Leningradskiy Obkom, and the first secretaries of obkoms on whose territory the district's units are stationed.